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# **Town of Sedgewick**

(Revised July, 1970)

## **1. LOCATION**

Southwest Quarter of Section 9-44-12-W4 in Census Division No 7. This location is 120 miles Southeast of Edmonton on Highway No. 13 and on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Winnipeg to Edmonton.

<b>2. ALTITUDE</b>	<b>LATITUDE</b>	<b>LONGITUDE</b>
2,194 Feet	52/46	111/41

## **3. TEMPERATURE**

Mean summer temperature 56 deg. F.

Mean winter temperature 18 deg. F.

Mean annual temperature 34 deg. F.

Note: These averages are estimated from data taken from the nearest weather stations.

## **4. RAINFALL**

Average Rainfall	10.08 inches
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Average Snowfall	36.0 inches
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Average total precipitation	13.68 inches
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Note: These averages are estimated from data obtained from the nearest weather stations.

## **5. GEOLOGY**

The bedrock of this area underlying the glacial deposits is the Belly River formation of the Upper Cretaceous period. This formation is a series of light colored sandstones and shales. This horizon, in other parts of the province includes dinosaur beds and coal seams.

## **6. SOIL**

The soil profile in the Sedgewick district is in the Shallow Black Zone.

### **Profile**

The normal profile has an (A) horizon that averages about ten inches in depth and which in its upper three to six inches is black in color. The remainder is usually dark brown. The (B) horizon is usually brown to dark brown and the lime horizon (Bea) is found at depths of 24 to 30 inches below

the surface. Generally the depth to the lime layer is considered as indicative of the efficiency of rain penetration.

#### **Fertility**

Soils in this zone are usually fairly well supplied with nitrogen and organic matter.

#### **Vegetation**

Grassland, interspersed by groves of poplar and willow. Northeast of town limits is a swamp, or muskeg, well grown with willows. Iron Creek flows west to east a mile north of town, its flat margin supporting rank growth of coarse grasses and reeds.

#### **Land Use**

The soil types vary. Sandy loams and clay loams predominate, most being arable and fertile. Wheat and rapeseed are the principal commercial crops, with the soil in the area being peculiarly adapted for the growing of excellent potatoes and vegetables. The non-arable land along Iron Creek is good pasture and hay land.

### **7. HISTORY**

Sedgewick was named after the late Honourable Robert Sedgewick, who was a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court at Ottawa.

First settlers in the district, in 1904 and 1905, were the Ole K. Bakken family, the Rasmus Bergums, John Askelson, the Fred Mobergs, Geo. Peterson, John Nicol, the Mikkelsons, Jack and Will Hampshire, the families of Will and Gordon Irish and Archie and Annie Wells. As Wetaskiwin was at that time the nearest railway point, trekking into the Sedgewick area from there meant an arduous journey, by horse or ox drawn wagons, of many toilsome days.

Pioneer businessmen of Sedgewick were, to name a few: Ole Lund, the builder of the Pioneer Hotel; Fowler & Breen, D. A. Bickell, R. E. and W. F. Brown, merchants; and Howard and Clarence Purvis, druggists. Pete Wahlund operated the first meat market, or butcher shop. Much of the building material and trade goods was freighted in, by team, from Wetaskiwin.

Sedgewick was incorporated as a Village in February of 1907, with E. T. Matchett as the first mayor.

The Canadian Pacific Railway completed its line to the Village in September of 1906, thus ending the comparative isolation of the district. Population rapidly increased, with the last of the homesteads being occupied in 1907. New businesses and services came into being to serve the expanding population; thus the Village grew and prospered.

**GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!** Sedgewick may well be the only prairie town to have experienced a gold rush. In the summer of 1912, George Peterson, a one-time Klondike sourdough, claimed to have discovered placer gold on a small creek that ran through his ranch. The news caused quite a flurry of excitement, and claims were hurriedly staked all along the creek. But the "stampede" soon petered out; and, although it seems certain that Mr. Peterson did find traces of the yellow metal just as surely as no one else did.

## 8. LIVING CONDITIONS

Sedgewick presents a prosperous appearance, with modern stores, wide streets (some of which are paved) and paved sidewalks. The majority of the homes are well landscaped, with attractive lawns and vegetable gardens. Fruits are grown, chiefly raspberries and crabapples.

Educational facilities are adequate, providing instruction for grades one to twelve. The spiritual needs of the community are taken care of by churches of three denominations.

For the sportsman good deer and bird hunting is available in the area, with some fishing also, within a half-hour's drive.

The average rent for a five-room house is \$80 and suites in the apartment block command a rental of \$100 per month. Approximately 90 per cent of the homes are owner-occupied. Total value of building permits for 1968-69 was \$260,000.

## 9. ADMINISTRATION

The town is governed by a Council, made up of a mayor and six councillors, each elected for a term of three years. The secretary-treasurer carries out the policy set by the council.

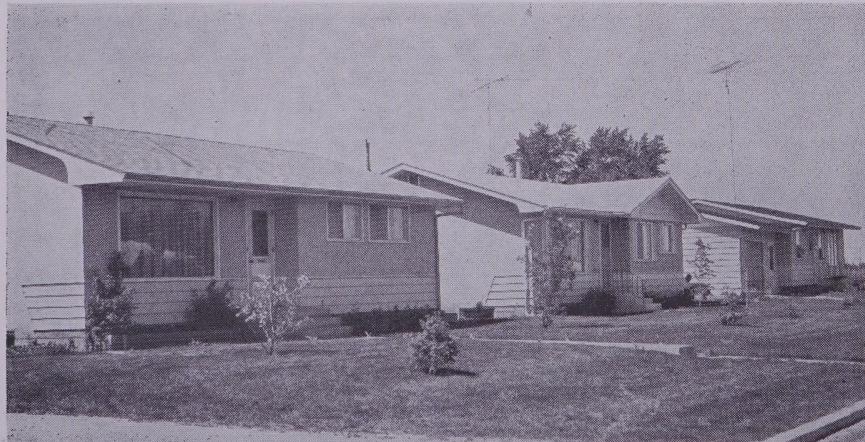
## 10. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

All new buildings, repairs to buildings, and removal of buildings must be approved by the council, after which a permit may be issued.

The electrical code conforms to the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

The Alberta Public Health Regulations govern the sanitary by-laws.

The town is policed by its own police constables and the Mounted Police, providing 24-hours a day service.



Modern, attractive homes line the residential streets.

## 11. FIRE PROTECTION

The fire brigade consists of a volunteer fire chief and 16 volunteer firemen. There is a 50,000 gallon capacity storage tank, with a 500 GPM pump, one hose tender, 1700 feet of 2½-inch hose and 500 feet of 1½-inch hose. There are two fire trucks. The modern fire hall, equipped with helmets, coats, rubber boots and ladders, was built in 1961. There is complete town coverage.

## 12. TAX STRUCTURE

Land 100 per cent of value	\$109,600
Improvements, fair value	777,880
Power	20,400
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Total Assessment	907,880

### Mill Rate:

Municipal	School	Hospital	Total
26.5	47	6.5	80 mills

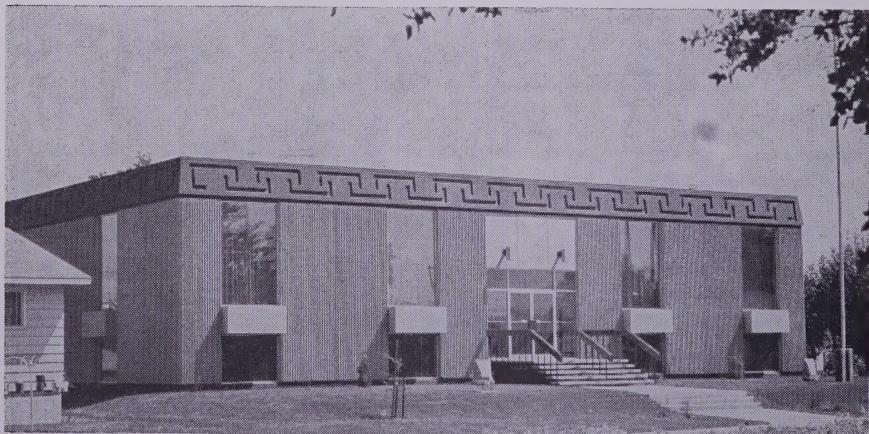
## 13. AREAS

Area of Town	500 acres
Parks and Playgrounds	258 acres

### Miles of Roads, Streets and Lanes:

	Paved	Gravel	Improved Earth	Total
Streets and Roads	.57	5.68	Nil	6.25
Lanes and Alleys			2.25	2.25
				8.50 miles

There are two miles of cement sidewalks.



Administration of the County of Flagstaff is handled from this fine office.

#### 14. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

Storm Sewers	500 feet
Sanitary Sewers	19,200 feet

#### 15. POWER

There is a Calgary Power branch office and service centre, with two resident servicemen.

Three phase 60-cycle power is supplied under a franchise by Calgary Power Ltd.

Domestic Rates: Available only for lighting, heating, cooking, domestic power and ordinary uses in private homes and apartments used exclusively for residential purposes.

First 20 KWH or less used per month—\$2.60 minimum, subject to 30c prompt payment discount, making \$2.30 net minimum.

Next 280 KWH used per month—1.5c net per KWH. All over 300 is 1.25c.

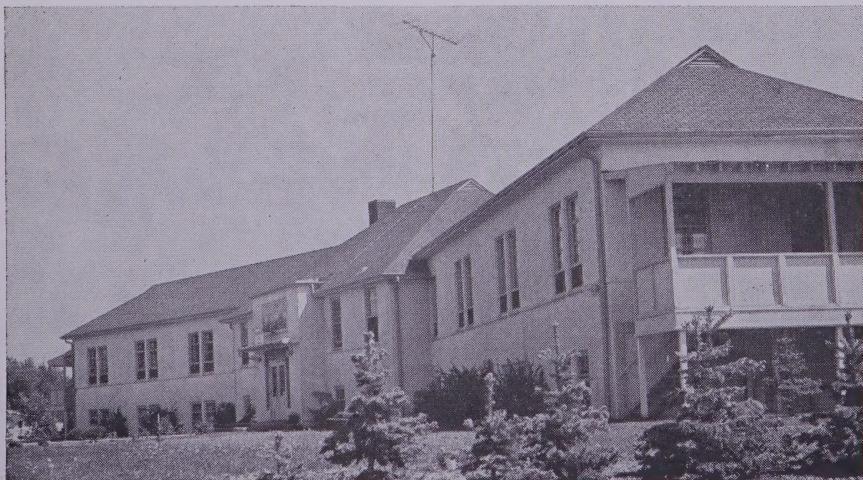
Discount applies on any bill paid within ten days of date rendered.

Connection charge—\$1.00; reconnection charge—twice net minimum.

Commercial Rate: Available for lighting and general service in commercial establishments.

Energy Charge—first 40 KWH or less used per month, 5c per KWH; next 100 KWH used per month, 3c; balance at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.

Discount of 10 per cent within ten days, based on even dollars of total monthly bill, with minimum discount of 30c per month.



This large building is the comfortable senior citizens' residence in the town.

Consumer's Deposit—twice the gross monthly minimum charge.

Reconnection Charge—twice the net monthly minimum charge.

Power Rate: Available for motors and commercial heating apparatus used in commercial establishments.

Service Charge—\$1.00 per KVA of installation (monthly charge).

Energy Charge—first 50 KWH per month per KVA of installation, 5c per KWH. Next 50 KWH per month per KVA, 3½c per KWH. All over 100 KWH per month per KVA of installation 1½c per KWH.

Discount of 10 per cent in ten days, based on the dollars of the total bill, with a minimum discount of 30c per month.

Minimum charge—\$3.30 gross—\$3.00 net—or the amount of the service charge, whichever is the greater.

Consumer's Deposit—\$2.00 per KVA of installation, and not less than \$6.00, or at the company's option, twice the estimated bill.

Reconnection Charge—\$6.00.

#### **Rural Electrification:**

There are approximately 300 members in the Association, making it one of the largest in the Province of Alberta. Electrification has done much toward modernizing the rural living conditions in the area.

## **16. WATER**

Sedgewick is noted for its easy accessibility to an apparently inexhaustible supply of excellent well-water, which may be obtained at a depth of from 14 to 18 feet. During the era of the steam locomotive trains passing through replenished their water supply from the local well. There are no water mains, as every house in town has its own water well.



For the apartment dweller, this new building serves several families.

Water Analysis	Parts per Million
Total Solids	446
Ignition Loss	198
Hardness	310
Sulphates	21
Chlorides	16
Alkalinity	320
Nature of Alkalinity —	Bicarbonate of lime and magnesium
Nitrites	trace
Nitrates	5.6
Iron	0.2

Remarks — Chemically this water is suitable.

## 17. FUELS

Natural gas was installed in 1965. It is purchased at wellhead (approximately five miles from town) from the owning company. There is a hook-up of 90 per cent, plus. Cost to the consumer is 50c per thousand cu. ft., with an added \$3.00 per month service charge. The system is town-owned.

Estimate of supply potential from the one well presently in use is set at 40 years.

## 18. L.P. GAS

Heat Value—2,521 b.t.u. per cu. ft. at 60 deg. F.

Bulk—17c per gal.

Storage capacity—5,000 gallons.

## 19. DIESEL FUEL

Heat Value—135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gallon at 60 deg. F.

Winter Grade—18.2c per gallon.

Summer Grade—17.2c per gallon.

Storage Capacity—8,000 gallons.

## 20. COAL

Coal is secured from the Forestburg mine, 28 miles southeast of Sedgewick. Price delivered—Lump \$9.50 per ton; Stoker \$8.00 per ton.

## 21. LOCAL RESOURCES

Straw, cereals, grass seed, flax, rape, mustard, course grains; Dairy products: milk, cream, butter, poultry and eggs; horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, honey, sand and gravel, oil.

## 22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

### Federal

Post Office.

### Provincial

Alberta Government Telephones, Treasury Branch, District Agriculturist, Department of Municipal Affairs, Stettler Health Unit No. 10 Office, Agricultural Service Board.

### Municipal

County of Flagstaff No. 29, Office of Town Secretary-Treasurer, Committee Rooms, Fire Hall, Pound, Police Department, Garbage collected weekly.

## 23. HEALTH SERVICES

There is no hospital in Sedgewick. There is a Senior Citizens Home.

Stettler Health Unit No. 10 maintains an office in the town.

Other Health Services—1 Doctor (M.D.), 1 Veterinarian, 1 Drug Store.

## 24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED SERVICES (Excluding Health Services)

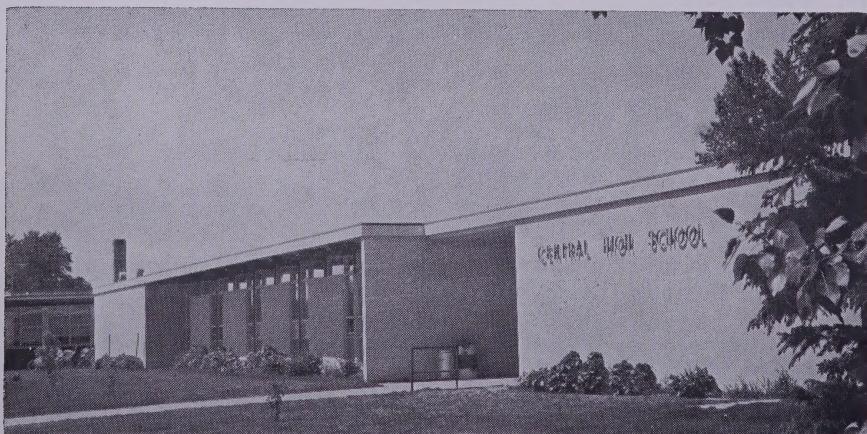
Type of Service	No. of Establishments
Public Accountant	1
Beauty Parlors	2
Barber Shops	1

## 25. TRANSPORTATION

Canadian Pacific Railway—Edmonton to Winnipeg via Sedgewick.

Sunburst Motor Coaches Ltd.—2 buses daily both ways.

Daily truck service to Edmonton.



Central High School in Sedgewick serves students from a wide area.

**26. NEWSPAPERS**

Community Press (weekly).

**27. COMMUNICATIONS**

Canadian Pacific Telegraphs, Alberta Government Telephones, Post Office; nearest radio station, Camrose CFCW.

**28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES**

Bank of Montreal, Alberta Treasury Branch Agency, Flagstaff Credit Union.

**29. HOTELS**

	No. of Rooms	Rates	Licensed
Pioneer	20	\$2.50	yes

**30. TOURIST CAMPS AND MOTEL**

Medico Motel and Trailer Court.

**31. CHURCHES**

Anglican, United, Lutheran.

**32. LODGES**

Masonic, Eastern Star.

**33. SERVICE CLUBS**

Board of Trade, Canadian Legion, Women's Auxiliary Canadian Legion, Women's Institute, Lutheran Ladies' Aid, Women's Auxiliary of the Anglican and United Churches, Kinsmen Club, Kinettes.



Sedgewick schools are of modern construction and are well staffed.

#### 34. SOCIETIES

Red Cross Society, Fish and Game Association, Home & School Association, Fairdonian FWUA, Sedgewick Unifarm.

#### 35. EDUCATION

The Sedgewick Schools are part of the Flagstaff County School Division. Grades 1 to 12 are taught along with the following optional subjects: Typing, Bookkeeping, Art, Home Economics, Woodwork, Electricity, Physical Education, Music and Drama. The school population is made up as follows:

	Grades	No. of Pupils	No. of Teachers
Elementary	1 to 6	148	6
Junior High	7 to 9	83	6
High	10 to 12	338	18

#### 36. THEATRES AND HALLS

	Capacity	Stage	Piano
Community Hall	500	yes	yes

#### 37. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Sedgewick Community Library is sponsored by the Women's Institute and is supported by membership fees and provincial government grant. The library is open Saturdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. There are 1500 volumes in the library.

Dramatic group (at school).



Summer recreation includes golf, on this well maintained course.

## **38. YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

### **Boys**

Calf Club.

### **Girls**

Girl Guides, C.G.I.T., 4-H Club.

## **39. SPORTS**

Baseball (senior and junior), hockey (junior), softball (ladies and men), golf, curling, basketball.

### **Facilities**

Covered curling rink, three sheets artificial ice; open air skating and hockey rink; nine-hole golf course (sand greens); playground (supervised); baseball diamond; school grounds, bowling lanes, race track and gymkhana arena.

## **40. FAIRS**

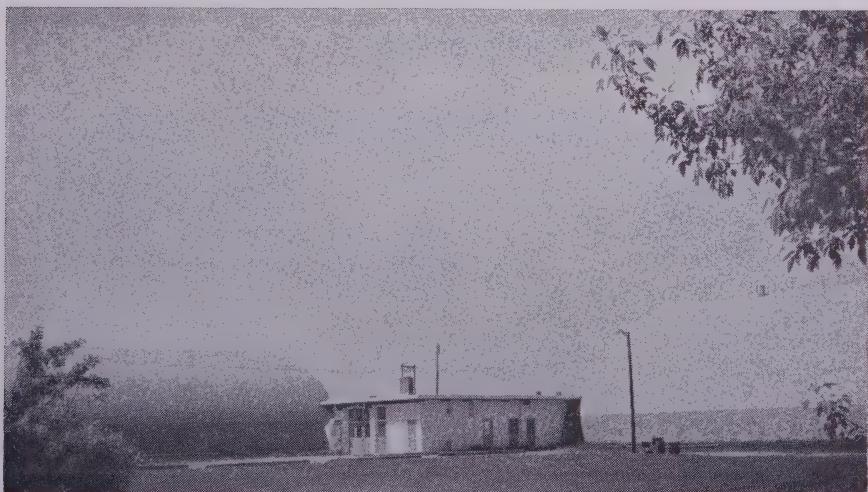
Sports Day only.

## **41. HISTORIC SITES**

Nil.

## **42. CO-OPERATIVES**

Northern Alberta Dairy Pool and pasteurization plant, Central Alberta Livestock Shipping, Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers, Co-op General Store, Co-op Farm Machinery, U.F.A., Co-op Oil Distributor.



*Curling and other winter sports take place in this large recreation centre.*

## 43. INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

Type of Industry or Business	Number of Establishments	Type of Industry or Business	Number of Establishments
Accountant .....	1	Grain Elevators .....	5 (Capacity 329,000 bushels)
Bakeries .....	1	General Stores .....	2
Banks .....	2	Hardware .....	3
Barbers .....	1	Hotels .....	1
Books & Stationery .....	See Drug Store	Implements, Farm .....	1
Beauty Parlors .....	2	Insurance & Real Estate .....	4
Butchers .....	1	Lumber Yards .....	1
Building Contractors .....	3	Milk Distributors .....	1
Clothing, Men's .....	2	Motel .....	1
Clothing, Women's .....	1	Oil Distributors .....	2
Confectionery .....	2	Painters & Decorators .....	1
Car Wash .....	1	Pool Room .....	1
Coin Wash .....	1	Printers .....	1
Cold Storage Locker .....	1	Propane Gas Agent .....	1
Creameries .....	1	Radio & TV Repairs .....	2
Doctors .....	1	Radiator Repairs .....	1
Drugs .....	1	Restaurants .....	3
Elec. Appliances .....	5	Trailer Court .....	1
Elec. Contractors .....	3	Veterinarians .....	1
Furniture Stores .....	2	Welding .....	2
Funeral Parlor Agent .....	1		
Garage & Service Stations .....	2		

## 44. SITES

Sites suitable for large and small industries or residential lots are available from the village at reasonable prices.



Swimming is a popular sport at the nearby lake area.

#### **45. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Farmers in the Sedgewick district depend to a considerable extent upon mixed farming, although many of the larger operators are straight grain growers. Farm income from the sale of livestock and products practically balances the income derived from sale of field crops. The average farm consists of approximately 960 acres, 80 per cent being owned and owner occupied. Wheat and rapeseed are the chief commercial crops, with barley and oats being grown for feed. Tame hay is grown usually a mixture of alfalfa and brome grass.

One third to one half of the tilled land is more often than not in summerfallow.

Cattle and hog raising comprise the most important livestock enterprises. There are few sheep.

Farms are now electrified 95 per cent plus.

#### **46. TRADING AREA**

North, 16 miles; west, 6 miles; south, 18 miles; east, 15 miles.

#### **47. POPULATION**

Population growth, though not phenomenal, has been satisfactorily steady over the years. Trading area population is estimated to be about 2,000; the town population being 758, a 16 per cent increase over the last decade. Because of the advantages to be derived from residing in the Town of Sedgewick—adequate services, better than average recreation and sports facilities and unlimited supply of good water—this growth may reasonably be expected to be maintained or increased during the succeeding years.

PROVINCE OF  
**ALBERTA**

